

## HONORING JOHNATHAN SHELBY STITT

## HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Johnathan Shelby Stitt of Kansas City, Missouri. Johnathan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1333, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Johnathan has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Johnathan has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Johnathan Shelby Stitt for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

## TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT JACOB BESER

## HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor the memory of Lieutenant Jacob Beser, the only United States Army Air Force Officer to serve on both the mission of the Enola Gay to Hiroshima and Bock's Car to Nagasaki.

Jacob Beser was born on March 15, 1922 in Baltimore Maryland and graduated from Baltimore City College in 1938. He then studied mechanical engineering at Johns Hopkins University but left the day after Pearl Harbor to enlist in the Army Air Forces. Because of his educational background and training, Beser was sent to Los Alamos, New Mexico to work on the Manhattan Project in the area of weapons firing and fusing.

Lieutenant Beser was the radar specialist aboard the Enola Gay on August 6, 1945, when it dropped the "Little Boy" atomic bomb on Hiroshima. "Little Boy", the first atomic bomb to be used in warfare, was to detonate over the city triggered by radar calculations that measured the bomb's distance from the ground as it fell. Lieutenant Beser's job was to monitor those calculations and also to ensure that no other radars interfered with the radar frequency, which could have caused a premature detonation.

Three days later, Lieutenant Beser was aboard Bock's Car when "Fat Man" was dropped on Nagasaki. He was the only person to have crewed the attack aircraft of both missions.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor the memory of Lieutenant Jacob Beser. It is with great pride that I recognize a fellow Baltimore City College graduate on being the only United States Army Air Force Officer to serve on the crew for both the historic missions of the Enola Gay and Bock's Car.

## CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

## HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Saturday, September 27, 2008*

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, as Speaker of the House of Representatives, I send the appreciation of the Congress to those who have given San Francisco, as well as the world, the magnificent gift of the new California Academy of Sciences as it opens on September 27, 2008.

Generations of Bay Area residents have grown up with the Academy as a cultural treasure in Golden Gate Park, visiting as schoolchildren and then bringing their own children to this center of exploration and natural sciences education. Worn by earthquakes, age, and the love of so many children, its friends re-imagined the best possible version of this beloved institution.

How fortunate are we all that the Academy's board and leadership secured the talent and vision of the brilliant Italian architect Renzo Piano, who transformed this noted science museum into an architectural triumph and forward-looking example of energy-efficient design. The Academy also benefited greatly from the crusading spirit of former executive director Pat Kocielek, whose enthusiasm for a 21st century natural history center became infectious.

The California Academy of Sciences is home to the Steinhart Aquarium, Kimball Natural History Museum, Morrison Planetarium and world-class research and education programs. The magnificent new site boasts a four story living rainforest, an awe-inspiring corral reef ecosystem, a living roof of California native plants which is an engineering marvel of seven hills reflecting San Francisco's landscape. The Academy is committed to preserving natural habitats and protecting essential natural resources.

San Francisco prides itself on being a model for the Nation, indeed the world, when it comes to preserving our beautiful planet for future generations. Therefore, it is fitting that the California Academy of Sciences will be the greenest nature museum in the world and stands with the deYoung to make Golden Gate Park a destination of world-class museums.

This extraordinary renovation of the Academy benefited greatly from large private philanthropy, due in great part to the tireless work of the Academy's Board of Trustees, led by the task force of William Wilson, Martha Knopf, George Montgomery and Richard Bingham. The renovation also benefited from funding from the city and the state, and I am especially pleased my colleagues in Congress joined me to obtain \$8 million in federal investment for this innovative project.

My five children, like so many others, spent endless hours exploring the boundless treasures of the academy. Now this magnificent new building will inspire and educate scores of children, scientists and environmental leaders to explore and protect our natural world. I am proud to represent this world-class, eco-friendly institution, and look forward to introducing my grandchildren to its wonders.

## NEED FOR COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

## HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Saturday, September 27, 2008*

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, Americans continue to work hard in these tough economic times.

As in the past, today's immigrants supply the limitless stream of ability, hard work, and innovation that improve the economic life of our nation.

Like the immigrant founders of this country, today's immigrants improve the economic life of America.

Immigrants also provide the amazing diversity that makes America what it is, what makes us unique among all the nations in the world.

However, we must remember that injustice for any person leads to injustice for all. If there are people without rights, it puts us all at risk.

Denying justice and human rights to any group of people is Un-American.

I urge my colleagues to support comprehensive immigration reform and fix this broken immigration system.

## PREDICTION OF A FINANCIAL CRISIS

## HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Saturday, September 27, 2008*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, as our Nation faces a financial crisis, I wish to submit the following article, "Fannie Mae Eases Credit To Aid Mortgage Lending," published in The New York Times on September 30, 1999. Special recognition should be given to those who recognized early on the dangers inherent in easing credit requirements for housing loans—including Peter Wallison of the American Enterprise Institute.

FANNIE MAE EASES CREDIT TO AID MORTGAGE LENDING

(By Steven A. Holmes)

In a move that could help increase home ownership rates among minorities and low-income consumers, the Fannie Mae Corporation is easing the credit requirements on loans that it will purchase from banks and other lenders.

The action, which will begin as a pilot program involving 24 banks in 15 markets—including the New York metropolitan region—will encourage those banks to extend home mortgages to individuals whose credit is generally not good enough to qualify for conventional loans. Fannie Mae officials say they hope to make it a nationwide program by next spring.

Fannie Mae, the nation's biggest underwriter of home mortgages, has been under increasing pressure from the Clinton Administration to expand mortgage loans among low and moderate income people and felt pressure from stock holders to maintain its phenomenal growth in profits.

In addition, banks, thrift institutions and mortgage companies have been pressing Fannie Mae to help them make more loans to so-called subprime borrowers. These borrowers whose incomes, credit ratings and savings are not good enough to qualify for